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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



CHOLERA TREATMENT UNDER DIFFICULTIES

FROM Changteh, Hunan, China, comes an interesting letter from Jennie Manget Logan, a nurse trained in Indiana and now the wife of a medical missionary, who says:

"Through the kindness of my roommate in the Indiana School of Nursing, Miss M. B. Sollers, R.N., who is now superintendent of a hospital at Richmond, Indiana, I was the recipient of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING for one year. I do feel grateful to her for putting me in touch with the JOURNAL, for I cannot tell how much good it does me. I read it from cover to cover and never without positive help.

"My husband opened, at this place, fourteen years ago, the first medical work in this province and it has grown until we saw last year 17,079 patients. Of these 613 were cholera cases. We treated them, almost every one, with tonic saline intravenous injections, and a tremendous per cent. were saved. Dr. Logan, Dr. Tai and Dr. Pao (two Chinese foreign-trained doctors), and I opened the veins. We used about one and a half tons of distilled water which was 'salted' and then sterilized under pressure. Each arm was sponged with tincture of iodine, then washed in alcohol and normal salt. Sterile towels and sponges were always used, and the knives, scissors, thread, probes, needles, artery clamps, and forceps kept in pure lysol, fished out and put through alcohol and then on a sterile plate. When the vein was opened, the solution was put in by means of a medicine dropper tied on to a catheter which was fastened by a glass tube to part of an old stomach pump, and this in turn was tied to a glass funnel.

"We have never had such an epidemic and this was our first trial at curing cholera by intravenous injections. It took all the ingenuity Dr. Logan had to improvise apparatus out of scraps, as we were utterly unprepared for such a siege. We are three months from American manufacturers of rubber goods, and were very thankful for the odds and ends that enabled us to get the solution into the veins. Not one of the twenty-five who helped us contracted the disease, and too much cannot be said of our Chinese helpers' unselfish devotion to the sufferers. We kept our sterilizer going eighteen hours a day, and we never had one infected arm."